The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A print server which is connected through a network to an external apparatus for outputting image data mixedly including BW (black-and-white) and color data, a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW image data, and a color image formation apparatus for outputting color image data, said print server comprising:

determination means for determining one of the BW image formation apparatus and the color image formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a base;

judgment means for reading the image data mixedly including the BW and color data output from the external apparatus for each page and judging whether the page is a color page or a BW page;

transmission means for transmitting a previously judged color page to the color image formation apparatus to output the color page in a case where the base, determined by said determination means, is the BW image formation apparatus, and for transmitting a previously judged BW page to the BW image formation apparatus to output the BW page in a case where the base, determined by said determination means, is the color image formation apparatus; and

instruction means for inserting one of the BW page and the color page, sent through the inserter and previously outputted, in the base determined by said determination means, and simultaneously instructing to output the other of the BW page and the color page.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A print server according to Claim 1, further comprising another judgment means for judging whether or not a storage device for spooling the BW page is installed in the BW image formation apparatus, or judging whether or not a storage device for spooling the color page is installed in the color image formation apparatus, is provided.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A print server according to Claim 2, wherein the BW page is transmitted to the BW image formation apparatus in a case where the storage device is installed in the BW image formation apparatus, or the color page is transmitted to the color image formation apparatus in a case where the storage device is installed in the color image formation apparatus.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A print server according to Claim 2, wherein display instruction means for displaying the page on a display screen of the BW image formation apparatus and a display screen of the external apparatus on the basis of an installation state of the BW image formation apparatus or displaying the page on a display screen of the color image formation apparatus and the display screen of the external apparatus on the basis of an installation state of the color image formation apparatus, is provided.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A print server according to Claim 4, wherein the installation state is an installation state of the storage device.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An image formation system comprising:

an external apparatus for outputting image data mixedly including BW and color data;

a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW image data;

a color image formation apparatus for outputting color image data; and

a print server connected through a network to said external apparatus, said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, and said print server comprising:

determination means for determining one of said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a base;

judgment means for reading the image data mixedly including the BW and color data output from said external apparatus for each page and judging whether the page is a color page or a BW page;

transmission means for transmitting a previously judged color page to said color image formation apparatus to output the color page in a case where the base, determined by said determination means, is said BW image formation apparatus, and transmitting a previously judged BW page to said BW image formation apparatus to output the BW page in a case where the base, determined by said determination means, is said color image formation apparatus; and

instruction means for inserting the one of the BW page and the color page, sent through the inserter and previously outputted, in the base determined by said determination means, and simultaneously instructing to output the other of the BW page and the color page.

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Claim 7 (previously presented): An image formation system comprising:

an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data, different from the first-kind image data, to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit,; and

control means for controlling to transmit the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus and to transmit the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus from the series of image data,

wherein said control means makes transmission timing of the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus different from transmission timing of the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the second image formation apparatus and in accordance with which of the first image formation apparatus and the second image formation apparatus have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet on which image formation processing does not have to be performed.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 7, wherein the function includes a second function to perform spooling processing.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 9, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the second-kind image data to the second

image formation apparatus in accordance with the fact that the first image formation apparatus

has the first function.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 7, wherein

said information processing apparatus can input image data from a remote

image processing apparatus,

said control means includes display control means for selectively displaying

message information to an operator on said image processing apparatus, the first image formation

apparatus and the second image formation apparatus, and

said control means determines that the information has to be displayed on

which of said image processing apparatus, the first image formation apparatus and the second

image formation apparatus in accordance with the function of the first image formation apparatus

or the function of the second image formation apparatus.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 11, wherein

said control means varies the content of the information in accordance with the function of the

first image formation apparatus or the function of the second image formation apparatus.

Claim 13 (original): A system according to Claim 7, wherein the first-kind

image data represents a BW image and the second-kind image data represents a color image.

Claim 14 (original): A system according to Claim 8, wherein the first-kind

image data represents a photograph image and the second-kind image data represents a character

image.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A control method for an image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data, different from the first-kind image data, to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit, said method comprising:

a control step, of controlling to transmit the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus and to transmit the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus from the series of image data,

wherein transmission timing of the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus is made different from transmission timing of the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus in said control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the second image formation apparatus and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet to which image formation processing does not have to be performed.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program to cause an image formation system to execute a control method, the image formation system having an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data, different from the first-kind image data, to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit, said method comprising:

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a control step, of controlling to transmit the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus and to transmit the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus from the series of image data,

wherein transmission timing of the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus is made different from transmission timing of the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus in the control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the second image formation apparatus and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet to which image formation processing does not have to be performed.

Claim 17 (previously presented): An image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, comprising:

control means for controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and to transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than said first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages,

wherein said control means makes transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus different from transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with a function of said first image formation apparatus or a function of the other image formation apparatuses and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.

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Claim 18 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 17, wherein the function includes a second function to perform spooling processing.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 17, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with the fact that said first image formation apparatus has the first function.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A control method of an image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, comprising:

a control step, of controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and to transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than the first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages,

wherein transmission timing of the image data to the first image formation apparatus is made different from transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in said control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the other image formation apparatuses and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program to cause an image formation system to execute a control method, the image formation system having an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, said method comprising:

a control step, of controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and to transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than the first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages,

wherein transmission timing of the image data to the first image formation apparatus is made different from transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in said control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the other image formation apparatuses and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.

Claim 23 (new): A method of operating a system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a memory unit for enabling storage of a plurality of printable data and a second printing device, said method comprising the steps of:

causing the first printing device to execute a first printing operation and causing the second printing device to execute a second printing operation; and

causing, in the case that the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insertion process of a sheet from a predetermined sheet supply for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the

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first printing operation is started after the second printing operation was started when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used.

Claim 24 (new): An operating method according to Claim 23, wherein, said method causes, in the case where the inserter function is used in the first printing operation so as to insert a second type of sheet supplied from the predetermined sheet supply source for a first type of sheet supplied from the sheet supply source, the first printing device to operate so that the first printing operation is started after the second printing operation was started.

Claim 25 (new): An operating method according to Claim 24, wherein at least a type of data to be printed on the first type of sheet is different from a type of data to be printed on the second type of sheet.

Claim 26 (new): An operating method according to Claim 23, wherein, said method causes, in the case where the inserter function is used in the first printing operation so as to insert the sheet supplied from the predetermined sheet supply source and print-processed in the second printing operation for the sheet supplied from the sheet supply source and print-processed in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first printing operation is started after the second printing operation was started.

Claim 27 (new): An operating method according to Claim 26, wherein said method includes causing a first image forming apparatus and a second image forming apparatus to perform a distributed printing operation which distributes the printing operation of the data output from one data supply source to the first

printing operation by the first printing device and the second printing operation by the second printing device, and

causing, in the case where the inserter function is used in the first printing operation so as to insert the sheet supplied from the predetermined sheet supply source and print-processed in the second printing operation as the distributed printing operation for the sheet print-processed in the first printing operation as the distributed printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first printing operation is started after the second printing operation was started.

Claim 28 (new): An operating method according to Claim 27, wherein the distributed printing operation includes a printing operation to cause the first printing device to perform the printing operation of a part of a series of data consisting of plural pages output from one data supply source and to cause the second printing device to perform the printing operation of other part of the series of data.

Claim 29 (new): An operating method according to Claim 27, wherein the distributed printing operation includes a printing operation to cause the first printing device to perform the printing operation of partial page of a series of data consisting of plural pages output from one data supply source and to cause the second printing device to perform the printing operation of other page of the series of data.

Claim 30 (new): An operating method according to Claim 27, wherein the distributed printing operation includes a printing operation to cause the first printing device to perform the printing operation of the first type of data included in a series of data mixedly

composed of the first type of data and the second type of data output from one data supply source and to cause the second printing device to perform the printing operation of the second type of data included in the series of data.

Claim 31 (new): An operating method according to Claim 30, wherein the first type of data is black and white data and the second type of data is color data.

Claim 32 (new): An operating method according to Claim 30, wherein the first type of data is photograph data and the second type of data is character data.

Claim 33 (new): An operating method according to Claim 27, wherein the data supply source includes a computer, and the first and second printing devices can respectively perform the printing operations of the data output by the computer.

Claim 34 (new): An operating method according to Claim 33, wherein the first and second printing devices can receive the data output by a first computer through a second computer.

Claim 35 (new): An operating method according to Claim 33, wherein the first printing device has a scanner unit, and the data from the scanner unit can be printed by the first printing device through the memory unit.

Claim 36 (new): An operating method according to Claim 27, further comprising a step of enabling the data supply source to confirm function information of the first printing device.

Claim 37 (new): An operating method according to Claim 36, further comprising a step of enabling the data supply source to confirm function information of the second printing device.

Claim 38 (new): An operating method according to Claim 27, further comprising a step of causing a user interface unit of the data supply source to notify the user of information for enabling the user to discriminate that the second printing operation in the second printing device was finished.

Claim 39 (new): An operating method according to Claim 23, further comprising a step of causing an operation unit of at least one of the first and second printing devices to notify the user of information for enabling the user to discriminate that the second printing operation in the second printing device was finished.

Claim 40 (new): An operating method according to Claim 27, further comprising a step of causing a user interface unit of the data supply source to notify the user of message information for enabling the user to confirm an action which should be performed by the user when the first printing operation in the first printing device is performed.

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Claim 41 (new): An operating method according to Claim 23, further comprising a step of causing an operation unit of at least one of the first and second printing devices to notify the user of message information for enabling the user to confirm an action which should be performed by the user when the first printing operation in the first printing device is performed.

Claim 42 (new): An operating method according to Claim 23, wherein an occupation time of the first printing device for the first printing operation is shortened by operating the first printing device so that the first printing operation is started after the second printing operation was started.

Claim 43 (new): A storage medium storing a program executing a method of operating a system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a memory unit for enabling storage of a plurality of printable data and a second printing device, said method comprising the steps of:

causing the first printing device to execute a first printing operation and causing the second printing device to execute a second printing operation; and

causing, in the case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of a sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first printing operation is started after the second printing operation was started when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used.

Claim 44 (new): An operating system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a memory unit for enabling storage of a plurality of printable data and a second printing device, said system further comprising:

an operation unit adapted to cause the first printing device to execute a first printing operation and to cause the second printing device to execute a second printing operation; and

a control unit adapted to cause, in the case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of a sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first printing operation is started after the second printing operation was started when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used.

Claim 45 (new): A method of operating a system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data and a second printing device, said method comprising the steps of:

causing the first printing device to execute a first printing operation based on first data output from a same data source as a data source which can output second data of an object to be printed in a second printing operation by the second printing device; and

causing, in the case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the memory unit of the first printing device before the second

printing operation by the second printing device is finished and the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit can be started after the second printing operation is finished when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used.

Claim 46 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, wherein said method causes, in the case where the inserter function is used in the first printing operation so as to insert a second type of sheet supplied from the sheet supply source for a first type of sheet supplied from the sheet supply source, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the memory unit of the first printing device before the second printing operation by the second printing device is finished and the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit can be started after the second printing operation by the second printing device is finished.

Claim 47 (new): An operating method according to Claim 46, wherein at least a type of data to be printed on the first type of sheet is different from a type of data to be printed on the second type of sheet.

Claim 48 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, wherein said method causes, in the case where the inserter function is used in the first printing operation so as to insert the sheet supplied from the predetermined sheet supply source and print-processed in the second printing operation for the sheet supplied from the sheet supply source and print-processed in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the memory unit of the first printing device before the second printing operation by the second

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printing device is finished and the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory

unit can be started after the second printing operation by the second printing device is finished,.

Claim 49 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, wherein said

method causes the first printing device to perform the first printing operation and causes the

second printing device to perform the second printing operation.

Claim 50 (new): An operating method according to Claim 49,

wherein said method causes a first image forming apparatus and a

second image forming apparatus to perform a distributed printing operation which distributes the

printing operation of the data output from one data supply source to the first printing operation by

the first printing device and the second printing operation by the second printing device, and

wherein said method causes, in the case where the inserter function is

used in the first printing operation so as to insert the sheet supplied from the predetermined sheet

supply source and print-processed in the second printing operation as the distributed printing

operation for the sheet print-processed in the first printing operation as the distributed printing

operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the memory unit of

the first printing device before the second printing operation by the second printing device is

finished and the first printing operation based on the first data in the memory unit can be started

after the second printing operation by the second printing device was started.

Claim 51 (new): An operating method according to Claim 50, wherein the

distributed printing operation includes a printing operation to cause the first printing device to

perform the printing operation of a part of a series of data consisting of plural pages output from

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one data supply source and to cause the second printing device to perform the printing operation of other part of the series of data.

Claim 52 (new): An operating method according to Claim 50, wherein the distributed printing operation includes a printing operation to cause the first printing device to perform the printing operation of partial page of a series of data consisting of plural pages output from one data supply source and to cause the second printing device to perform the printing operation of other page of the series of data.

Claim 53 (new): An operating method according to Claim 50, wherein the distributed printing operation includes a printing operation to cause the first printing device to perform the printing operation of the first type of data included in a series of data mixedly composed of the first type of data and the second type of data output from one data supply source and to cause the second printing device to perform the printing operation of the second type of data included in the series of data.

Claim 54 (new): An operating method according to Claim 53, wherein the first type of data is black and white data and the second type of data is color data.

Claim 55 (new): An operating method according to Claim 53, wherein the first type of data is photograph data and the second type of data is character data.

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Claim 56 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, wherein the data supply source includes a computer, and the first and second printing devices can respectively perform the printing operations on the data output by the computer.

Claim 57 (new): An operating method according to Claim 56, wherein the first and second printing devices can receive the data output by a first computer through a second computer.

Claim 58 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, wherein the first printing device has a scanner unit, and the data from the scanner unit can be printed by the first printing device through the memory unit.

Claim 59 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, further comprising a step of enabling the data supply source to confirm function information of the first printing device.

Claim 60 (new): An operating method according to Claim 59, further comprising a step of enabling the data supply source to confirm function information of the second printing device.

Claim 61 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, further comprising a step of causing a user interface unit of the data supply source to notify the user of information for enabling the user to discriminate that the second printing operation in the second printing device was finished.

Claim 62 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, further comprising a step of causing an operation unit of at least one of the first and second printing devices to notify the user of information for enabling the user to discriminate that the second printing operation in the second printing device was finished.

Claim 63 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, further comprising a step of causing a user interface unit of the data supply source to notify the user of message information for enabling the user to confirm an action which should be performed by the user when the first printing operation in the first printing device is performed.

Claim 64 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, further comprising a step of causing an operation unit of at least one of the first and second printing devices to notify the user of message information for enabling the user to confirm an action which should be performed by the user when the first printing operation in the first printing device is performed.

Claim 65 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, wherein an occupation time of the first printing device for the first printing operation is shortened by operating the first printing device so that the first printing operation can be started after the second printing operation was started.

Claim 66 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45,

wherein said method includes permitting a start of the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit, when a first instruction is input by a user through a user interface unit after the second printing operation is finished, and

wherein said method includes inhibiting the start of the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit, when the first instruction is not input through the user interface unit after the second printing operation is finished.

Claim 67 (new): An operating method according to Claim 66, wherein said method includes canceling the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit, when a second instruction is input by the user through the user interface unit after the second printing operation is finished.

Claim 68 (new): An operating method according to Claim 66, wherein the user interface unit includes an operation unit of at least either one of the first printing device and the second printing device.

Claim 69 (new): An operating method according to Claim 66, wherein the user interface unit includes an operation unit of a computer acting as the data source.

Claim 70 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45,

wherein said method includes enabling a display unit to perform a first display for enabling a user to input a first instruction after the second printing operation is finished,

wherein said method includes permitting a start of the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit, when the first instruction is input by the user through the first display after the second printing operation is finished, and

wherein said method includes inhibiting the start of the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit, when the first instruction is not input through the first display after the second printing operation is finished.

Claim 71 (new): An operating method according to Claim 70,

wherein said method includes enabling the display unit to perform a second display for enabling the user to input a second instruction after the second printing operation is finished,

wherein said method includes canceling the first printing operation based on the first data of the memory unit, when the second instruction is input by the user through the second display after the second printing operation is finished.

Claim 72 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45,

wherein said method includes enabling an operation unit to perform a display for enabling a user to select any one of plural data stored in the memory unit, and

wherein when the first data being the print target in the first printing operation is selected through the display, said method includes enabling to start the first printing operation based on the selected first data after the second printing operation is finished.

Claim 73 (new): An operating method according to Claim 72, wherein the operation unit includes at least one of an operation unit of a computer acting as the data source, an operation unit of the first printing device, and an operation unit of the second printing device.

Claim 74 (new): An operating method according to Claim 72,

wherein said method includes enabling to select through the display another data other than the first data from among the plural data stored in the memory unit, and

wherein when the another data is selected through the display, said method includes causing the first printing device to be able to perform another printing operation based on the another data selected in the memory unit, irrespective of the first printing operation.

Claim 75 (new): An operating method according to Claim 74,

wherein when the first data is selected through the display, said method includes enabling the operation unit to perform another display for enabling the user to input an instruction to start the first printing operation, and, on condition that the instruction is input through the another display, said method enables to start the first printing operation, and

wherein when the another data is selected through the display, said method includes causing the first printing device to be able to perform the another printing operation without causing the operation unit to perform the another display.

Claim 76 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45, wherein the predetermined sheet supply source includes at least either one of an inserter tray provided in a sheet processing device capable of being connected to the first printing device, and a manual feed tray provided in the first printing device itself.

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Claim 77 (new): An operating method according to Claim 45,

wherein said method includes causing the data source to output the first data and the second data substantially at the same time, and

wherein said method includes performing the first printing operation and the second printing operation at mutually different timing.

Claim 78 (new): A storage medium for storing a program to execute a method of operating a system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data and a second printing device, said method comprising the steps of:

causing the first printing device to execute a first printing operation based on first data output from a same data source as a data source which can output second data of an object to be printed in a second printing operation by the second printing device; and

causing, in the case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the memory unit of the first printing device before the second printing operation by the second printing device is finished and the first printing operation, based on the first data of the memory unit, can be started after the second printing operation by the second printing device is finished when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used.

Claim 79 (new): A system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data and a second printing device, said system comprising:

a print unit adapted to cause the first printing device to execute a first printing operation based on first data output from a same data source as a data source which can output second data of an object to be printed in a second printing operation by the second printing device; and

a control unit adapted to cause, in the case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the memory unit of the first printing device before the second printing operation by the second printing device is finished and the first printing operation, based on the first data of the memory unit, can be started after the second printing operation by the second printing device is finished when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used.

Claim 80 (new): An operating method of a system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a first memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data and a second printing device comprising a second memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data, said method comprising the steps of:

causing the first printing device to execute a first printing operation based on first data output from a data source, and causing the second printing device to execute a

second printing operation based on second data output from a same data source as the data source;

causing, in the case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the first memory unit before the second printing operation is finished and the first printing operation, based on the first data of the first memory unit, can be started after the second printing operation is finished when an inserter function in the first printing operation is used; and

causing, in a case where the second printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the second printing operation, the second printing device to operate so that the second data is stored in the second memory unit before the first printing operation is finished and the second printing operation, based on the second data of the second memory unit, can be started after the first printing operation is finished when the inserter function in the second printing operation is used.

Claim 81 (new): An operating method according to Claim 80,

wherein said method includes enabling to perform an output operation of the first data from the data source to the first printing device and an output operation of the second data from the data source to the second printing device substantially at the same time, and

wherein said method includes starting the first printing operation and the second printing operation at different timing.

Claim 82 (new): An operating method according to Claim 80, wherein said method includes causing the first printing device and the second printing device to perform a distributed printing operation which causes the first printing device to print the first data included in a series of data including the first data and the second data as the first printing operation and causes the second printing device to print the second data included in the series of data as the second printing operation.

Claim 83 (new): An operating method according to Claim 82, wherein the first data corresponds to the data of partial page included in the series of data consisting of plural pages, and the second data corresponds to the data of remaining page included in the series of data.

Claim 84 (new): An operating method according to Claim 82, wherein the first data corresponds to first type of data included in a series of data mixedly consisting of the first type of data and second type of data, and the second data corresponds to the second type of data included in the series of data.

Claim 85 (new): An operating method according to Claim 84, wherein the first type of data is black and white data and the second type of data is color data.

Claim 86 (new): An operating method according to Claim 84, wherein the first type of data is photograph data and the second type of data is character data.

Claim 87 (new): An operating method according to Claim 80, wherein the data supply source includes a computer, and the first and second printing devices can respectively perform the printing operations of the data output by the computer.

Claim 88 (new): An operating method according to Claim 80, wherein the first printing device has a scanner unit, and the data from the scanner unit can be printed by the first printing device through the memory unit.

Claim 89 (new): An operating method according to Claim 80, further comprising the steps of:

enabling the data supply source to confirm function information of the first printing device; and

enabling the data supply source to confirm function information of the second printing device.

Claim 90 (new): An operating method according to Claim 80,

wherein an occupation time of the first printing device for the first printing operation is shortened by controlling start timing of the first printing operation when the insert function is used in the first printing operation by the first printing device, and

wherein an occupation time of the second printing device for the second printing operation is shortened by controlling start timing of the second printing operation when the insert function is used in the second printing operation by the second printing device.

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Claim 91 (new): A storage medium for storing a program to execute a method of operating a system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a first memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data and including a second printing device comprising a second memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data, said method comprising the steps of:

causing the first printing device to execute a first printing operation based on first data output from a data source, and causing the second printing device to execute a second printing operation based on second data output from a same data source as the data source;

causing, in a case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the first memory unit before the second printing operation is finished and the first printing operation based on the first data of the first memory unit can be started after the second printing operation is finished when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used; and

causing, in the case where the second printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the second printing operation, the second printing device to operate so that the second data is stored in the second memory unit before the first printing operation is finished and the second printing operation based on the second data of the second memory unit can be started after the first printing operation is finished when the inserter function in the second printing operation is used.

Claim 92 (new): A system which includes at least one of a plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a first printing device comprising a first memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data and a second printing device comprising a second memory unit capable of storing a plurality of printable data, said system comprising:

a unit adapted to cause the first printing device to execute a first printing operation based on first data output from a data source, and cause the second printing device to execute a second printing operation based on second data output from a same data source as the data source;

a unit adapted to cause, in the case where the first printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the first printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the first data is stored in the first memory unit before the second printing operation is finished and the first printing operation based on the first data of the first memory unit can be started after the second printing operation is finished when the inserter function in the first printing operation is used; and

a unit adapted to cause, in the case where the second printing device has an inserter function for enabling an insert process of sheet from a predetermined sheet supply source for a sheet from a sheet supply source in the second printing operation, the first printing device to operate so that the second data is stored in the second memory unit before the first printing operation is finished and the second printing operation based on the second data of the second memory unit can be started after the first printing operation is finished when the inserter function in the second printing operation is used.

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